RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 3rd December, 2007/12 Agrahayana, 1929, (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

शिक्षा संबंधी व्यय

*241. **श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा:**
श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:

क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के प्रस्तावित प्रारूप में शिक्षा पर होने वाले व्यय के लिए 85 लाख करोड़ रुपए की धनराशि आबंटित की गई है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो यह राशि कितनी है;

(ग) योजना अवधि के प्रथम वर्ष 2007-08 में अप्रैल से सितम्बर माह के दौरान इस आबंटित धनराशि में से शिक्षा पर वास्तव में कितना व्यय हुआ; और

(घ) इस पूरे वर्ष के दौरान व्यय हेतु आबंटित राशि 2.85 लाख करोड़ रुपए की कुल राशि का कितना प्रतिशत थी?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) ग्यारहवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना, 2007-12 को अभी अंतिम रूप दिया जाना है।

(ग) और (घ) वर्ष 2007-08 का शिक्षा का केन्द्रीय योजनागत आबंटन और अप्रैल से सितम्बर, 2007 तक किया गया वास्तविक व्यय इस प्रकार है:

	राशि (रुपए करोड़ में)
योजनागत आबंटन, 2007-08	28671.50
अप्रैल से सितम्बर, 2007 तक किया गया योजनागत व्यय	8258.08

Expenditure on Education

†*241. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:††
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the proposed draft of the Eleventh Five Year Plan Rs. 2.85 lakh crore has been allocated for expenditure on education;

(b) if not, the exact amount thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mohinder Singh Majitha.

(c) how much of this allocated amount has been actually spent on eudcation during April to September of 2007-08, the first year of the Plan period; and

(d) the percentage of total allocation of Rs. 2.85 lakh crore, which was allocated for expenditure during the whole of this year?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The XI Five Year Plan, 2007-12, is yet to be finalised.

(c) and (d) Central Plan allocation for Education for 2007-08, and actual Expenditure from April to September, 2007 are as follows:

Amount (Rs. in crore)

Plan Allocation, 2007-08	28671.50
Plan Expenditure during April to September, 2007	8258.08

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा: सभापति महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया से कहना चाहता हूं कि अभी-अभी ह्यूमेन डेवलपमेंट के संबंध में एक इंटरनेशनल रिपोर्ट आयी है जो भारत के लिए निराशाजनक है। इसलिए मैं समझता हूं कि मौजूदा 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में शिक्षा पर विशेष ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। देश में एजुकेशन एक्सपर्ट कोठारी कमेटी की राय है कि जीडीपी का 6 परसेंट शिक्षा पर खर्च होना चाहिए। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार ने जो रकम प्रपोज की है, क्या वह जीडीपी का 6 परसेंट है या नहीं?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, through you, I would like to apprise hon. Members that there has been considerable increase in allocation for the education over each Plan period. And, even in this Eleventh Plan period, we are expecting a considerably large enhancement in the allocation for education sector. But, I would like, through you, to bring to the notice of hon. Members that with respect to the percentage as against the GDP, though we have been increasing our allocations considerably, because of the fluctuation in the GDP, we have not been able to actually reach 6 per cent. But, Sir, 6 per cent allocation is not only what the Government of India is allocating. It is what the Government of India allocates and also what the State Governments allocate. The Government of India's allocation has been rising considerably. It was 0.52 per cent in 1995-96, and has risen to 0.89 per cent in 2005-06, whereas when we take the State's share into consideration, it was 3.75 per cent 2000-01 and has dipped down to 2.77 per cent of the GDP in 2005-06. I would like to bring to the notice of hon. Members that the States will also have to work towards increasing their allocations for education.

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा: महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मिनिस्टर साहिबा से कहना चाहता हूं कि एजुकेशन के मामले में देश बहुत ही पिछड़ा हुआ है। भले ही सरकार कितने ही दावे करे, किन्तु जब ये दावे ग्राउंड रिएलिटी पर टेस्ट किए जाते हैं तो खोखले साबित होते हैं। सबसे पहले तो एजुकेशन की जरूरत के अनुसार अरेंजमेंट्स नहीं हैं। अगर अरेंजमेंट्स हैं भी, तो एजुकेशन की क्वालिटी नहीं है। आज एजुकेशन में क्वॉलिटी और क्वांटिटी बढ़ाने की जरूरत है। इसलिए मौजूदा एजुकेशन पॉलिसी में अलग से एक ऐसी पॉलिसी बनानी होगी, जिससे देश की एजुकेशन की क्वॉलिटी और क्वांटिटी में सुधार हो। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस डायरेक्शन में क्या कदम उठा रही है और उस पर ईयरली कितना धन खर्च करने का निर्णय लिया गया है? क्वॉलिटी और क्वांटिटी बढ़े, उस पर क्या आपका कोई प्रोग्राम या पॉलिसी है और उस पर ईयरली कितना खर्च होता है?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, with regard to the quantitative expansion of the education sector, when it comes to elementary education, expecting a considerable increase in the allocation for education sector, we are looking at rapid upgradation of about 15,000 upper primary schools into secondary school level and also expand the intake capacity of 44,000 existing secondary schools. Similarly, we are also looking at establishing 6,000 quality model schools at the block level to serve as benchmarks of excellence in secondary education. We are also looking at strengthening the provisions for library and laboratory facilities in the existing schools and provide hostels and residential schools, particularly for the girl children. On the Mid Day Meal Scheme, Sir, we are looking at expanding it first to the 3,479 educationally backward blocks so that the children in the upper elementary section are also covered. Through this, we are looking at bringing almost 30 million children into the fold of the Mid Day Meal Scheme. When it comes to higher education, we have already said, time and again, that we are looking at increasing the number of IITs, IIMs, NITs, etc. Definitely, Sir, we are looking at quantity as well as quality improvements.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Chairman, Sir, without meaning any disrespect to the hon. Minister of State, in view of the importance of the question, we would have appreciated if the hon. Minister would have been here. I am saying so because there is a distinct context of this query. The Hon. Minister has just admitted that they are increasing the allocation in the Eleventh Plan. That is a welcome development. 'Education for All' is our common concern. But, Madam Minister, what is the report card? The sterling eloquence has come from the latest UNESCO Report, 6th Edition, where we regret to say, 'In the Report on Education for All Monitoring Report, India has dipped five points below from 100 to 105. India today is under bracket with Pakistan, with other smaller countries'. This is a matter of great concern which, at once, emphasises that delivery system is very poor. Today, we need to take a serious notice of the fact that out of total children who are out of schools, 66 per cent are girl child. The drop out rate is growing faster and faster at 14.6 per cent. These are areas of eloquent serious concern which we need to take notice of. You may increase the Plan allocation; you have just stated that. My specific query, Madam Minister, is two-fold. (a) What special efforts are being made to ensure that delivery of this huge quantum of money is properly implemented at the national level and the State level; and (b) What is the core focus of the Eleventh Plan? If the focus of the Tenth Plan was primary education, what is the focus of the Eleventh Plan?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, I hope the hon. Member has also taken stock of the fact that UNESCO Report has also appreciated the efforts that India has been putting in to ensure that education is made accessible and also equitable. And, of course, taking the demographic challenge of our country into consideration, we are doing our best and we are trying to ensure that quality and quantity are ensured and accessibility is also provided to all the children. Sir, with regard to the focus of the eleventh Plan, we are looking at vocationalisation of education and we would like to take this up in the mission mode to ensure that the children who are out of school and who do not have access to formal education or rather do not want to get into the stream of formal education, are brought into the fold of vocationalisation of education.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, you did not speak about delivery system at all. My first query was, what attempts are being made to ensue that delivery system becomes more effective?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sorry, Sir. We already have a monitoring system in place and we are trying to strengthen all the existing monitoring systems, particularly, with reference to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid Day Meal and also the UGC. We would be taking it up with all of them to ensure that the monitoring system is strengthened.

DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Sir, I also endorse what my esteemed friend just now mentioned that in view of the importance of this question, we would have appreciated if the Cabinet Minister was present. But, at the same time, I wish to compliment the junior Minister. She always come very well prepared for the answers and we can never find fault with her answers. She is one of the most promising young Ministers in the present Cabinet.

Sir, mention has been made about the increase in the size of the Plan for education. My question is about the capacity of the educational institutions in all the three sectors, higher, secondary and primary, to spend the amount that has been provided or that is going to be provided. We are adding about 300 colleges and 5 to 6 universities every year and in my judgement, most of them do not have the capacity to spend whatever little the Government is giving. Therefore, will the hon. Minister give an assurance to the House that you are making adequate steps to gear up the capacity of the institutions for spending the amount that is likely to be given to them by improving the quality of the staff, infrastructure etc. and by priority being given to research and various other steps?

Will the hon. Minister take into account these things when he gives the answer to the question about capacity? Will the Ministry seriously consider splitting up the universities which are now existing? Some of the universities are having 400 to 500 affiliated colleges. Split up the universities so that every 3 or 4 district will have a university of their own, and accept the recommendations of the Knowledge Commission to have 50 model universities covering all over States all over the regions will the hon. Minister give an assurance that these recommendations will be carried out?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, even as I would like to thank my senior colleague for having complimented me, I don't think if the hon. Human Resource Minister is not present here, it would mean that there would be a divergence in the policy that we would be stating here. Anyway, as per the capacity, the quarterly target for expenditure in the Ministry of Human Resource Development with reference to Department of School Education and Literacy is required to spend about 50 per cent of its allocations by September, and Department of Higher Education was required to spend 42 per cent of its allocation, Sir, and even as the Department of Higher Education has already spent close to 42 per cent, a little over 41 per cent, it is a matter of concern that school education and literacy has not actually reached the target of 50 per cent, and is hovering around a little over 31 per cent. The reason for this is the change in the sharing pattern of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.* The three main schemes are, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-day Meal and Adult Literacy.* There was a change in the sharing pattern between the Union Government and the State Governments with reference to *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.* Earlier, the ratio was 75:25, and it was changed to 50:50, and because of the little confusion over the sharing pattern, the pace of expenditure in *Sarva Shiksha Abiyan* was affected slightly. With reference to Mid-day Meal scheme, a decision was taken to extend the Mid-day Meal scheme to the upper primary classes. So, in view of that, there was a slight delay in the take off. With reference to the Adult Literacy scheme, because the plan had to be approved, there was a slight delay in the beginning of the adult education programme. But, however, since now it has come through, I am sure we would be able to achieve the target.

The other part of the question was about higher education. In higher education, we are looking at strengthening library and the laboratory facilities, as I have mentioned earlier. We are also looking at expanding the number of IITs, IIMs, ITs and all that. So, capacity is definitely there to absorb the allocation there, and I can assure the hon. Member that it would be qualitative absorption of all the allocations.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I ask my question, I have a submission. What we really need is a full day structured debate on education because there are so many aspects to education, from the primary level all the way up, and so many different problems are there. We cannot get the necessary information just by asking odd questions, although the Minister reply is perfectly all right. Sir, maybe, if not in this Session, in the next Session, one whole day should be kept, at least, for a debate. Sir, I travel around the country. Yesterday, I was in Mumbai and Pune, and whenever I meet the press people, I make inquiries about th *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan,* and my feedback for what it is worth, is not very favourable. It is not a question of expenditure. The monies that are allotted, either are not spent or not spent properly. Unless you involve the Panchayati Raj institutions from the Zila Parishad level down to the village level, you will not be able to ensure this. We sanction money. We have increased five-fold the expenditure on education. But how do you know that that money actually is getting spent? The monitoring cannot be done by the Government of India. It has to be done by the State Government through the Panchayati Raj institutions, and unless these institutions are involved, we will never be able to get proper results. So, my question is, whether along with these very welcome enhanced allocations for education, are you also seriously thinking of modalities and mechanism for proper monitoring.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, there are already mechanisms in place for monitoring, like we have the MIS. Then, we have regular reviews conducted by the secretaries, and the hon. HRD Minister takes reviews with the State Governments also.

With regard to expenditure, it is also the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure that there is qualitative spending of allocations made by the Union Government. So, it is shared responsibility and we expect the State also to shoulder the responsibility.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, a report contained in "The Global Digest, 2007" released by the UNESCO's Institute for Statistics says, "Households pay more than one-quarter, 28 per cent, of the costs to send their children to primary and secondary school". "Yet, at the same time, the households assume just 14 per cent of the costs for university education", it added in that report. Sir, when utmost priority should be given to education—we talk about primary education, education for all and universal primary education—the comparable cost of education between primary, secondary and university education, as revealed in the report, is high. My question is: What is the reaction of the Government to this report? This is my question to the Minister.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, as far as public schools are concerned, education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, as we all are aware, is compulsory and free also. I think, the 28 per cent that the hon. Member is talking about could be for the private school education. But as far as Government schools are concerned, education is free.

With reference to higher education, CABE Committee has recommended that the resources that could be collected through fee should meet up to 20 per cent of the recurring expenses so that education is actually accessible to everybody; whereas we do have a recommendation from the National Knowledge Commission which says that the resources that could be

pooled from the fee should meet, at least, 20 per cent. But realising that the accessibility is very important, there is still a debate on whether the fee should be high or whether it should be retained at whatever level it is. But accessibility has always been a priority with the Government of India.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में बिजली की बकाया राशि की वसूली

*242. **डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी:**

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:

क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने देश के ग्रामीण उपभोक्ताओं से बिजली उपभोग की राशि गैर-सरकारी संस्थाओं द्वारा कमीशन देकर वसूल कराए जाने की योजना तैयार की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त योजना का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह योजना कतिपय राज्यों में पहले से ही लागू है, यदि हां, तो ये राज्य कौन-कौन से हैं; और

(घ) यह योजना लागू करने के संभावित लाभ क्या-क्या हैं?

विद्युत मंत्री (श्री सुशीलकुमार शिंदे): (क) से (घ) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) विद्युत अधिनियम की धारा 14 परंतुक (vii) में अपनी ओर से वितरण व्यवस्था करने के लिए वितरण लाइसेंसियों द्वारा फ्रेंचाइजियों की नियुक्ति की व्यवस्था है।

(ख) यूटिलिटियां राजस्व आधारित फ्रेंचाइजियों (मीटरिंग, बिलिंग एवं संग्रह के लिए) से लेकर इनपुट आधारित फ्रेंचाइजियों (राजस्व संग्रह, प्रचालन एवं अनुरक्षण तथा उपभोक्ता सेवा में सुधार के लिए उत्तरदायी) की नियुक्ति के विभिन्न मॉडल अपना रही है।

(ग) 14 राज्यों नामश: उत्तरांचल, उत्तर प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल, हरियाणा, आंध्र प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान, कर्नाटक, बिहार, उड़ीसा, छत्तीसगढ़, गुजरात, असम, नागालैंड ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में फ्रेंचाइजियों की नियुक्ति की सूचना दी है।

(घ) विद्युत क्षेत्र की फ्रेंचाइजी प्रणाली के संभावित लाभ निम्नानुसार हैं—

(i) उपभोक्ता सेवाओं में सुधार;

(ii) राजस्व संग्रह को बढ़ावा;

(iii) एकल तकनीकी एवं वाणिज्यिक (एटी एंड सी) हानियों में कमी;

(iv) ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण आदि के बेहतर राजस्व निरंतरता के लिए कृषि एवं ग्रामीण उद्योग के उत्पादी भार का ह्रास।

Collection of electricity dues in rural areas

*242. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:††

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated a scheme to charge the bill amount for electricity consumption from the rural consumers in the country by paying commission to non-Government institutions to charge the same;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
††The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.